Serial No. 09/688,046

IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with <u>strikethrough</u>. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 3 and 6.

Please CANCEL claims 1 and 4.

- 1. (CANCELLED)
- 2. (CANCELLED)

Serial No. 09/688,046

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A server, comprising: according to claim 1, further comprising,

a result storing unit which stores at least one processing result of at least one processing request;

a receiving unit which receives the at least one processing request from a first client;

a request storing unit which stores the at least one processing request received from at least one client, the first client;

a request reading unit which reads out one of said at least one <u>processing</u> request <u>from</u> the <u>first client</u> stored in said request storing <u>unit</u>, <u>andunit</u>;

a determination unit which determines whether another processing request which is identical to the processing request received from the first client, has already been processed;

an execution unit which executes processing of the request received from the first client, and stores a result of the processing in said result storing unit when said determination unit determines that no other processing request which is identical to the processing request received from the first client has been processed;

a transmission unit which transmits to the first client said result of the processing executed by said execution unit when said determination unit determines that no other processing request which is identical to the processing request received from the first client has been processed, and transmits to the first client one of said at least one processing result corresponding to the processing request received from the first client when said determination unit determines that another processing request which is identical to the processing request received from the first client, has already been processed; and

a prohibiting unit which prohibits thean operation of said request reading unit after one of said at least one processing request from the first client stored in said request storing unit is read out, until a processing result corresponding to said one of said at least one processing request from the first client is transmitted to athe first client.

- 4. (CANCELLED)
- 5. (CANCELLED)



Serial No. 09/688,046

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A product <u>for use with a server, said product, when used with said server, is able to output control information which directs the server to realize: according to claim 4, further comprising,</u>

a result storing unit which stores at least one processing result of at least one processing request;

a receiving unit which receives the at least one processing request from a first client;

a request storing unit which stores the at least one processing request received from at least one client; the first client;

a request reading unit which reads out one of said at least one <u>processing</u> request <u>from</u> the <u>first client</u> stored in said request storing <u>unit</u>, and <u>unit</u>;

a determination unit which determines whether another processing request which is identical to the processing request received from the first client, has already been processed;

an execution unit which executes processing of the request received from the first client, and stores a result of the processing in said result storing unit when said determination unit determines that no other processing request which is identical to the processing request received from the first client has been processed;

a transmission unit which transmits to the first client said result of the processing executed by said execution unit when said determination unit determines that no other processing request which is identical to the processing request received from the first client has been processed, and transmits to the first client one of said at least one processing result corresponding to the processing request received from the first client when said determination unit determines that another processing request which is identical to the processing request received from the first client, has already been processed; and

a prohibiting unit which prohibits thean operation of said request reading unit after one of said at least one processing request from the first client stored in said request storing unit is read out, until a processing result corresponding to said one of said at least one processing request from the first client is transmitted to athe first client.

